

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4061

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1323

FOR EA/CU/EA AND NSC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL OTRA CH US

EABJECT: ESCORT OFFICERS

REF: STATE 159464; STATE 168975

1. FOLLOWING ARE OUR THOUGHTS ABOUT REMAINING FACILITATED EXCHANGE GROUPS THIS YEAR.

2. INSECT CONTROL, AUGUST 4 - 29; WE REGRET THAT IN LIGHT OF CURRENT STAFFING SITUATION (INCLUDING OGDEN ON HOME LEAVE AND ROPE AWAY FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT), PLUS PLANNING COVERED IN PARA 3 AND ONE OTHER POSSIBLE ESCORT COMMITMENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF AUGUST, WE ARE UNABLE TO COMMIT OURSELVES AT THIS TIME TO ATTACHING AN OFFICER TO THE INSECT CONTROL GROUP FOR THE PERIOD NOW ENVISAGED. IF LANGUAGE QUALIFIED DEPARTMENT OFFICER UNAVAILABLE, ONE OTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE WARDLAW, NOW AT FSI TAICHUNG AND SCHEDULED FOR TRANSFER HERE. PROVIDED WARDLAW ALREADY HAS A NEW PASSPORT AND ALL CONCERNED ARE AGREEABLE TO HIS IMMEDIATE TRANSFER (AND CHINESE COOPERATE BY ISSUING HIS VISA PROMPTLY) THERE SHOULD BE JUST TIME ENOUGH.

3. OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, AUGUST 20-SEPTEMBER 2 (APPROX): OUR NOMINEE IS FSO WILLIAM THOMAS. MRS. THOMAS WHO ALSO

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SPEAKS CHINESE, WOULD BE HAPPY TO ACCOMPANY. IN THE EVENT SENATOR

PERCY'S GROUP WANTS USLO ESCORT, FSO THOMAS S. BROOKS PROBABLY WILL BE OUR NOMINEE.

4. SOLID STATE PHYSICS, SEPTEMBER: WE CONCUR IN CONGEN HONG KONG'S NOMINATION (HK7869) OF FSO RICHARD BOCK. PASCOE, WHO WILL BE IN HONG KONG ON VACATION THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF JULY, WOULD BE GLAD TO BRIEF BOCK ON ESCORT OFFICER FUNCTIONS.

5. MAYORS, SEPTEMBER 15-31; AND WORLD AFFAIRS, OCTOBER 3-23 (APPROX): WE STRONGLY URGE THAT NATIONAL COMMITTEE BE ASKED TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON MAYORS. REASON GIVEN FOR ITS REQUEST THAT USLO NOT ATTACH AN OFFICER, NAMELY THAT GROUP IS OVERBURDENED WITH STAFF PERSONNEL, DOES NOT STRIKE US AS PARTICULARLY COGENT. MAYORS WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EXCHANGE GROUPS THIS YEAR, AND THERE IS EVERY REASON TO EXPECT THEY WILL MEET WITH PRC MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS OF CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE AND NORMALLY EXTREMELY LIMITED ACCESSIBILITY. WE WOULD OF COURSE ALSO HOPE TO ATTACH A USLO OFFICER TO WORLD AFFAIRS GROUP BUT WE THINK THIS LESS ESSENTIAL, FROM CONTACT AND REPORTING POINT OF VIEW, THAN HAVING ONE WITH THE MAYORS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE CHINESE WOULD OBJECT TO ADDITION OF A USLO OFFICER TO MAYORS DELEGATION. WE HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY MAKING A DEFINITE NOMINATION FOR EITHER GROUP THIS FAR IN ADVANCE, BUT MOST LIKELY CANDIDATES WOULD BE BROOKS, PASCOE OR OGDEN.

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